



International Mother Language Day

The love for Language and a
sound of silence

Who am I?

- Native speaker of an Indic language – “Bangla”
- Wikimedian since 2010
- One of the founding members of Wikimedia Bangladesh Chapter
- Chief Cheerleader of WMBD, AKA the “President”

International Mother Language Day

- First announced by UNESCO on 17 November 1999
- Formally Recognized by UN in 2002
- In 2007, became the part of UN initiative “to promote the preservation and protection of all languages used by peoples of the world”

International Mother Language Day – 2021



Theme for 2021

“Fostering multilingualism for inclusion in
education and society”

In Bangladesh

International Mother Language Day

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Language Movement Day

What “Language” means to us?

- Not only just a medium to communicate
- Most important part of our culture that we belong to
- Language is a part of our identity
- Language is a part of our emotional values



What is LOVE?

The Burning Question of the Universe



What is LOVE?

“Love” is not just a word. It’s more than that.



LOVE?

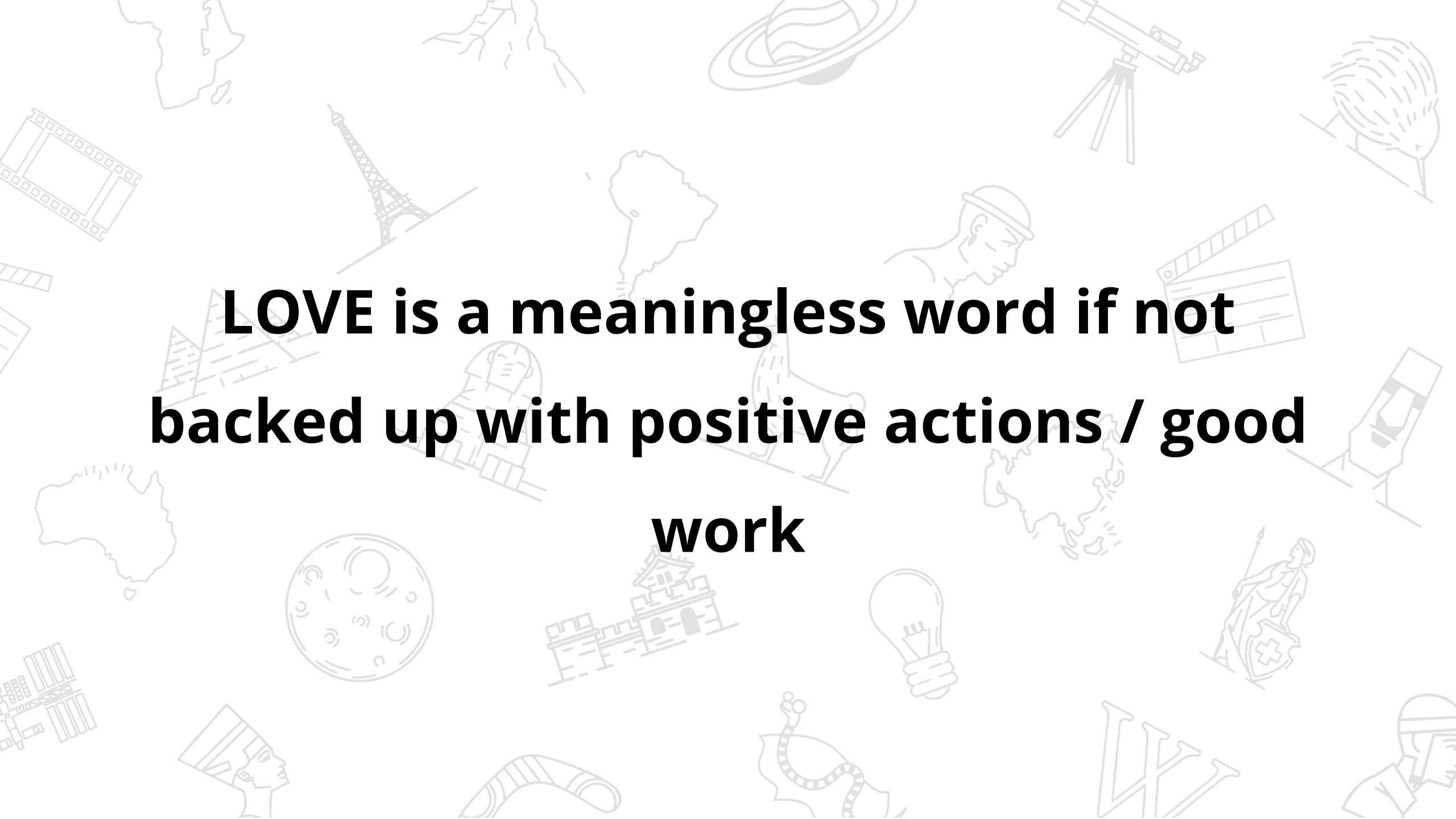
Seasonal vs Eternal
Selective vs Universal



Love for Language

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Eternal and Universal Love for Language



**LOVE is a meaningless word if not
backed up with positive actions / good
work**

Early Struggles of Indic Languages

- Lack of tools
- Delayed adoption of technology
- Making Awareness and motivate people to use the technology available

Bangla Language

- 2nd most spoken language in the South Asia
- 7th most spoken language in the World

Early Struggles of Bangla Language In Digital World

(same as most of the Indic languages)

- Lack of tools
- Delayed adoption of technology
- Making Awareness and motivate people to use the technology available

Which we overcame over the time



Again

**LOVE is a meaningless word if not
backed up with positive actions / good
work**



Changes happens mostly by the Youth



Actions for Love

Someone's uncle said,
"Real Love comes with Great Responsibilities." [Citation needed]



We need more contributors

Ways of Engaging more Contributors



- Awareness
- Training (workshops etc)
- Motivation



An experience from Bangladesh

Ekushey Wiki Gathering

- Started from 2007
- Started with one city then spread to many
- Even happened in China

What is “Ekushey Wiki Gathering”?

- It is a yearly awareness program
- On 21 February each year Wikimedians gather in public places
- They hold a banner on their hand and stand there in silence.
- The banner says, “Come, contribute to Bangla Wikipedia”



Why silent? Sounds weird, right?

But sometimes Silence can be more powerful than
sound.



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Interesting, right?!

You can also join us and try it next year.



Together we can go far

Collaboration is needed in South Asia



Together we can go far

Collaboration is needed in South Asia



Universal Love for all the languages

Love yours, Love others



Questions?

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